

DUNKARD CREEK-9JanY2K11

----- Original Message -----

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy  
To: <[d](#)>

Sent: Saturday, January 08, 2011 8:32 PM

Subject: Drilling reforms expected to get legislative attention - News - The Charleston Gazette - West Virginia News and Sports -

> <http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201101081735>

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> Note. This legislation will not pass without substantial input

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> from the public. Conservation and watershed groups must take

>

> the lead in interacting with the Legislature. Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

January 8, 2011

Drilling reforms expected to get legislative attention

Oil and gas lobbyists and environmental groups are both offering cautious reactions to a Department of Environmental Protection proposal for a wholesale rewrite of the way West Virginia regulates drilling operations across the state.

By [Ken Ward Jr.](#)

The Charleston Gazette

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Oil and gas lobbyists and environmental groups are both offering cautious reactions to a Department of Environmental Protection proposal for a wholesale rewrite of the way West Virginia regulates drilling operations across the state.

Citizen groups are hoping to persuade lawmakers to strengthen the legislation, while industry officials are still suffering "sticker shock" from a permit fee increase intended to help pay for improved regulation of their operations.

"It's a start," said Don Garvin, lead lobbyist for the West Virginia Environmental Council. "It's significantly better than the current program."

DEP officials, after months of talks with groups on both sides, have put together a 141-page bill in response to growing citizen concerns about the boom in horizontal drilling, especially for gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale formation.

Among other things, the bill aims to get a handle on how much water drillers use and how they dispose of their polluted wastewater, and on the increased surface footprint required for the larger drilling sites and wells.

Companies would have to submit water management plans that list the chemicals used in drilling and describe how they would dispose of drilling wastewater. It includes a new set of performance standards, and would require any well sites greater than five acres in size to submit formal designs put together by a professional engineer.

DEP Secretary Randy Huffman said his agency got the approval of Acting Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin to seek a sponsor for the bill, but that the legislation is not among Tomblin's own legislative priorities.

The bill rewrites entire sections of oil and gas law and creates several major new regulatory requirements. A \$10,000 permit fee on all horizontal wells would help DEP double the size of its 32-person Office of Oil and Gas.

"What we have here is not a new twist on the same industry," Huffman said last week. "In my view as a regulator, we have a whole new industry and we don't have a regulatory program to deal with that industry."

In their push for more natural gas, drilling operators are increasingly using a process called hydraulic fracturing, which shoots vast amounts of water, sand and chemicals deep underground to break apart rock and release the gas. More frequently, this process also involves drilling down and then turning horizontally.

"It's part of being responsive to the public," Huffman said of the bill. "We need to give the public a sense of confidence."

Corky DeMarco, lobbyist for the state Oil and Natural Gas Association, said his group has some concerns about the legislation, but is willing to continue working with DEP to work something out.

"We had a bit of sticker shock with the permit fees," DeMarco said. "The fees are a bit of a problem and we need to hear why they need to go up at that level.

"[But] we need to have the DEP in a position where they have the confidence of the citizens of this state," DeMarco said. "We need to work with them on this."

Garvin said his group is concerned that DEP did not address potential air pollution issues related to gas well facilities, and is also upset that the bill continues to allow operators to bury drilling pit wastes on site.

All sides are also just beginning to compare the DEP's language to an oil and gas proposal put together previously by a legislative subcommittee.

"What's important is what comes out of the legislative sausage grinder," Huffman said.

Reach Ken Ward Jr. at [kw...@wvgazette.com](mailto:kw...@wvgazette.com) or 304-348-1702.

----- Original Message -----

## **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

**Sent:** Saturday, January 08, 2011 3:04 PM

I have added some of the meeting stuff to

[http://www.uppermon.org/Mon\\_Watershed\\_Group/index.html](http://www.uppermon.org/Mon_Watershed_Group/index.html)

### ***5 January 2011 Meeting***

[WV-SORO Action Alert: Calls Still Need on Marcellus Drilling Bill](#) - includes contact addresses for the members of Interim Judiciary Subcommittee



[Handouts for 5 January 2011 meeting](#)

[Comparison of DEP and Judiciary A Draft Oil and Gas Bills \(Revised 1-06-2011\) By Donald S. Garvin, Jr., WV Environmental Council Legislative Coordinator](#)

[PowerPoints will be posted after I receive them - 

Washington PA OBSERVER REPORTER Saturday 8 January 2011:

## Does the water meet standards?

1/8/2011 8:17 AM

It is too bad Mr. Hanger, head of the state Department of Environmental Protection, finds Daniel Caruso's article (O-R, Jan. 3) appalling and disappointing. It is hard to take when your department is accused for not doing its job. I found Mr. Caruso's article very informative. Read Mr. Hanger's letter carefully; he says that every drop of water is required to meet safe drinking water standards, not that they do meet standards, whatever they are. The DEP has a long history of supporting industry, environment being ignored, and they are not competent when it comes to policing the drilling and wastewater industries. All they do is issue permits. Of course, our legislature and governor must take some of the blame for not funding the DEP. Nothing changes the fact that Pennsylvania is the only state that allows discharge of wastewater into waterways and eventually into drinking water sources. *Richard Yanock* **Washington** Copyright Observer Publishing Co.

Wheeling WV THE INTELLIGENCER Sunday 9 January 2011:

## Most Well Water Not Just Discharged

**January 9, 2011**

Editor, News-Register:

A recent Associated Press article printed in this newspaper goes to great lengths to convince readers that Pennsylvania streams and rivers are under attack by the state's natural gas industry - stating matter-of-factly that these surface waters have become the "primary disposal place" for the water that's produced in the process of developing the Marcellus Shale.

In fact, the "primary disposal place" for this water is no disposal place at all - a function of the fact that Pennsylvania's natural gas producers on average recycle more than 90 percent of the water that returns to the surface. The rest is delivered to underground injection sites, often in neighboring states, whose location, construction, maintenance and inspection is regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Everything else falls under jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act, which directly regulates the type and amount of water allowed to be treated at wastewater facilities. Still,

the industry is committed to being a zero discharge operation in the state's surface waters, and continues to lead the nation in recycling technologies and practices.

Indeed, thanks to advances in technology, producers today are able to access more clean-burning natural gas by drilling fewer wells, lessening impacts to the land and greatly reducing the volume of water needed to do the job. To the AP's credit, some of these facts did eventually find their way into the 3,000-word story that appeared in this paper. Unfortunately, they were buried down so deep, it's possible those facts may have been missed by many of your readers.

Kathryn Klaber

Canonsburg, Pa.

(The writer is president and executive director of the Canonsburg, Pa.-based Marcellus Shale Coalition.)

## **Fine Is Unpaid: One Year Later, City Still Owes DEP \$414,000**

*January 9, 2011 - By CASEY JUNKINS Staff Writer*

WHEELING - It's been nearly a year since the city's Water Pollution Control Division received a \$414,000 fine from the state for receiving hydraulic fracturing wastewater at the Center Wheeling treatment plant. However, it remains unclear as to when - or if - city taxpayers will be required to pay the fine.

According to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Wheeling-based Liquid Assets Disposal allegedly dumped frack wastewater at the Water Pollution Control plant from January 2009 to February 2010. During this time, the DEP said LAD allegedly exceeded the 9,000-pound daily chloride limitation for Wheeling's plant on about 50 occasions.

A DEP report notes that during a conversation between Wheeling and LAD officials, the city "acknowledged that the LAD discharge killed (bacteria at) the plant" and that Water Pollution Control employees had complained about strong and offensive odors causing breathing difficulty and light-headedness.

Though the fine remains in place, DEP spokeswoman Kathy Cosco said the department is still working to resolve the matter with the city.

"Substantial progress has been made, but nothing has been finalized," she said, noting the DEP will issue a public notice when officials sign off on the matter.

DEP records note the city's alleged violations occurred when Wheeling officials decided to accept wastewater products from LAD, a privately owned wastewater receiving and treatment system located at Wheeling's Industrial Park on Peninsula Street. The wastewater products included frack water, DEP materials explain.

Though LAD allegedly dumped the frack water in Wheeling's plant until early last year, DEP officials eventually told city leaders that they could no longer accept the substance.

City officials have said they will seek to recoup any fine costs from LAD.



When contacted this week, Dave Hapchuk, LAD's owner, said only that the situation involving the fine was still being resolved.

The frack water results from the hydraulic fracking technique, during which drillers pump up to 6 million gallons of water, sand and chemicals thousands of feet into the ground with a force as high as 10,000 pounds per square inch. After the tightly compacted Marcellus Shale is fractured, 15 to 40 percent of the fluid flushes back up through the well.

In addition to the chemicals pumped down into the well, studies show that this wastewater can be polluted with metals such as barium and strontium.

While the fine remains unresolved, Wheeling Public Works Director Russell Jebbia said the city will follow DEP guidelines in not accepting the briny wastewater.

Officials with Chesapeake Energy, the most active local Marcellus Shale driller, note they plan to reuse as much of the frack water as they possibly can. Another option some drillers may take is to pump the fluid into underground injection wells.

Binghamton NY PressConnects.com Sunday 9 January 2011:

URL for article below, as I may have messed up copying the six pages – I probably have page five printed twice.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20110108/NEWS01/101080357/Frackwater+from+the+faucet++Pa.+efforts+to+track++regulate+wastewater+sometimes+fail>

## **Frackwater from the faucet: Pa. efforts to track, regulate wastewater sometimes fail**

BY DAVID B. CARUSO • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS • JANUARY 8, 2011, 9:00 PM

The natural gas boom gripping parts of the U.S. has a nasty byproduct: wastewater so salty, and so polluted with metals like barium and strontium, most states require drillers to get rid of the stuff by injecting it down shafts thousands of feet deep.

Not in Pennsylvania, one of the states at the center of the gas rush.

There, the liquid that gushes from gas wells is only partially treated for substances that could be environmentally harmful, then dumped into rivers and streams from which communities get their drinking water.

In the two years since the frenzy of activity began in the vast underground rock formation known as the Marcellus Shale, Pennsylvania has been the only state allowing waterways to serve as the primary disposal place for the huge amounts of wastewater produced by a drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

State regulators, initially caught flat-footed, tightened the rules this year for any new water treatment plants, but allowed any existing operations to continue discharging water into rivers.

At least 3.6 million barrels of the waste were sent to treatment plants that empty into rivers during the 12 months ending June 30, according to state records. That is enough to cover a square mile with more than 8 1/2 inches of brine.

Researchers are still trying to figure out whether Pennsylvania's river discharges, at their current levels, are dangerous to humans or wildlife. Several studies are under way, some under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency.

State officials, energy companies and the operators of treatment plants insist that with the right safeguards in place, the practice poses little or no risk to the environment or to the hundreds of thousands of people, especially in western Pennsylvania, who rely on those rivers for drinking water.

But an Associated Press review found that Pennsylvania's efforts to minimize, control and track wastewater discharges have sometimes failed.

For example:

- \* Of the roughly 6 million barrels of well liquids produced in a 12-month period examined by The AP, the state couldn't account for the disposal method for 1.28 million barrels, about a fifth of the total, due to a weakness in its reporting system and incomplete filings by some energy companies.

- \* Some public water utilities that sit downstream from big gas wastewater treatment plants have struggled to stay under the federal maximum for contaminants known as trihalomethanes, which can cause cancer if swallowed over a long period.

- \* Regulations that should have kept drilling wastewater out of the important Delaware River Basin, the water supply for 15 million people in parts of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, were circumvented for many months.

In 2009 and part of 2010, energy company Cabot Oil & Gas trucked more than 44,000 barrels of well wastewater to a treatment facility in Hatfield Township, a Philadelphia suburb. Those liquids were then discharged through the town sewage plant into the Neshaminy Creek, which winds through Bucks and Montgomery counties on its way to the Delaware River.

Regulators put a stop to the practice in June, but the more than 300,000 residents of the 17 municipalities that get water from the creek, or use it for recreation, were never informed that numerous public pronouncements that the watershed was free of gas waste had been wrong.

"This is an outrage," said Tracy Carluccio, deputy director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, an environmental group. "This is indicative of the lack of adequate oversight."

## **New York watching**



The situation in Pennsylvania is being watched carefully by regulators in New York and other states, some of which have begun allowing some river discharges. In New York, then-Gov. David Paterson slapped a moratorium on high-volume fracking last month while environmental regulations are drafted.

Industry representatives and the state's top environmental official insist the wastewater from fracking has not caused serious harm anywhere in Pennsylvania, in part because it is safely diluted in the state's big rivers. But most of the largest drillers say they are taking action and abolishing river discharges anyway.

Cabot, which produced nearly 370,000 barrels of waste in the period examined by The AP, said that since the spring it has been reusing 100 percent of its well water in new drilling operations, rather than trucking it to treatment plants for disposal.

Cabot wants to ensure that everything we are doing is environmentally sound," said company spokesman George Stark. "It makes environmental sense and economic sense to do it."

All 10 of the biggest drillers in the state say they have either eliminated river discharges in the past few months, or reduced them to a small fraction of what they were a year ago. Together, those companies accounted for 80 percent of the wastewater produced in the state.

The biggest driller, Atlas Resources, which produced nearly 2.3 million barrels of wastewater in the review period, said it is now recycling all water produced by its wells in their first 30 days of operation, when the flowback is heaviest. Half of the rest is now sent to treatment plants, but "our ultimate goal is to have zero surface discharge of any of the water," said Atlas senior vice president Jeff Kupfer.

John Hanger, outgoing secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, said he believed the amount of drilling wastewater being recycled is now about 70 percent -- an achievement he credits to tighter state regulation pushing the industry to change its ways.

"The new rules, so far, appear to be working," he said. "If our rules were not changed ... we would have all of it being dumped in the environment, because it is the lowest-cost option," said Hanger, who believes the new regulations are adequate to protect water supplies.

"The drinking water at the tap in Pennsylvania is safe. It has not been contaminated by drilling," he said.

But he cautioned that rivers need to be watched closely for any sign that they have degraded beyond what the new state standards allow.

"This requires vigilance," he said. "Daily vigilance."

### **What's the danger?**



Researchers are still trying to figure out whether the wastewater discharges, at their current levels, could cause serious environmental harm.

The municipal authority that provides drinking water to Beaver Falls, 27 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, began flunking tests for trihalomethanes regularly last year, around the time that a facility 18 miles upstream, Advanced Waste Services, became Pennsylvania's dominant gas wastewater treatment plant.

Trihalomethanes aren't found in drilling wastewater, but there can be a link. The waste stream often contains bromide, a salt, which reacts with the chlorine disinfectants used by drinking water systems to kill microbes. That interaction creates trihalomethanes.

The EPA says people who drink water with elevated levels of trihalomethanes for many years have an increased risk of getting cancer and could also develop liver, kidney or central nervous system problems.

Gas drilling waste isn't the only substance that can cause elevated trihalomethane levels, however. Pennsylvania's multitude of acid-leaching, abandoned coal mines and other industrial sources are also a major factor in the high salt levels that lead to the problem.

Beaver Falls plant manager Jim Riggio said he doesn't know what is causing the problem, but a chemical analysis raised the possibility that it might be linked to the hundreds of thousands of barrels of partially treated gas well brine that now flow past his intakes every year.

"It all goes back to frackwater," he said.

During fracking, companies pump millions of gallons of water mixed with chemicals and sand deep into the rock, shattering the shale and releasing the gas trapped inside. When the gas comes to the surface, some of the water comes back, too, along with underground brine that exists naturally.

It can be several times saltier than sea water and tainted with fracking chemicals, some of which can be carcinogenic if swallowed at high enough levels over time.

The water is also often laden with barium, which is found in underground ore deposits and also used by drillers as a bit lubricant. It can cause high blood pressure if someone ingests enough of it over a long period of time.

Particles in the water are also often tainted with radium, a naturally occurring radioactive substance, and strontium, a mineral abundant in rocks, earth, coal and oil.

Reacting to questions about unauthorized discharges into Neshaminy Creek, Cabot spokesman George Stark said the company was aware that its waste should not have been going to facilities in the Delaware Basin. He said he wasn't sure, however, whether Cabot knew whether the firm it had hired to treat the waste, PSC Environmental Services, was discharging the fluids.

Regulators did not impose any fines after Cabot and the two treatment plants halted the discharges.

Clifford David, president of the Heritage Conservancy, a nature and land preservation group in Bucks County, said he was wasn't aware that gas drilling wastes had been discharged in the creek.

He said he doesn't believe any wastewater discharges should be allowed without a thorough treatment that removes all contaminants that could degrade a waterway.

"It seems to me that we have the technology and the capacity to take that water and clean it to a level where it's a higher water quality than what's in the river to begin with," he said.

When companies recycle their wastewater, they lightly treat it for particles and some other substances, combine it with fresh water, and reuse it in a new fracturing job.

Operators of the treatment plants handling the bulk of the waste still being discharged into Pennsylvania rivers say they can remove most of the toxic pollutants without much trouble, including radium and barium.

"We have been able to do it carefully. We have been able to do it safely," said Al Lander, President of Tunnelton Liquids, one of the state's busiest treatment plants. The facility, near Saltsburg, east of Pittsburgh, treats both drilling water and acid draining out of an abandoned mine.

"In some respects, it's better than what's already in the river," he said of the water his plant discharges into the Conemaugh.

"What we are putting into the river now is far cleaner, and far more eco-friendly than what was running in naturally from acid mine drainage."

The one thing that can't be removed easily, except at great expense, he said, are the dissolved solids and chlorides that make the fluids so salty.

Those substances usually don't pose a health risk to humans in low levels, said Paul Ziemkiewicz, director of the West Virginia Water Research Institute at West Virginia, but high enough levels can foul the taste of drinking water, leave a film on dishes and could give people diarrhea.

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In 2008, workers at two plants that draw water from the Monongahela River -- U.S. Steel, in Clairton, and Allegheny Energy, noticed that salt levels had spiked so high that equipment was corroding. State regulators suspected it was related to gas drilling waste being discharged through sewage treatment facilities.

Today, however, it remains unclear how much of a role the wastewater had in the salt spike. Some research has suggested that abandoned coal mines, which release far greater pools of polluted water into the state's rivers than gas drilling, were predominantly to blame for the problem.



Salt levels have spiked again on the Monongahela since 2008, even though relatively little drilling wastewater is now being discharged into that waterway.

"The best thing to do with this type of wastewater is recycle it," Ziemkiewicz said.

## **Injection wells**

In places like the Barnett Shale field in Texas and the Haynesville Shale in Louisiana, fracking has ignited a gas bonanza, but the dominant disposal method for drilling wastewater there, and in other big gas-producing states like West Virginia, New Mexico and Oklahoma, are injection wells. These wells, which are regulated by EPA, consist of shafts drilled as deep as the ones that produce shale gas.

In some arid states, wastewater is also treated in evaporation pits. Water is essentially baked off by the sun, leaving a salty sludge that is disposed of in wells or landfill.

When Pennsylvania's gas rush began a few years ago, the state only had a few injection wells in operation. Ohio had more, but trucking wastewater so far was expensive. Evaporation pits wouldn't work because of the state's wet climate.

River dumping turned out to be the easy answer.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires all polluters to get a permit before they can discharge wastewater into rivers and streams. In theory, the permits limit how dirty the effluent can be when it is discharged into a river and ensure that the water quality doesn't degrade.

But Pennsylvania, which administers the EPA permit program within its borders, initially lacked a clear regulatory scheme to deal with the big increases in volume created by the gas boom and wasn't initially aware that some facilities had begun handling the waste.

Since then, the state has enacted tougher water quality standards. The new rules, adopted last summer, allow existing treatment plants to continue operating with few changes, but will require new facilities to meet strict targets for dissolved solids and chlorides

Essentially, the water they discharge must be no saltier than tap water. Existing treatment plants could also be forced to alter their operations if a river fails to hit another salt standard, even if they are not the primary source of the problem. Hanger said he doesn't believe any state waterway has exceeded the state's new standard yet.

## **Novel combines romance, Marcellus Shale fracking**

**BY GEORGE BASLER • [GBASLER@GANNETT.COM](mailto:GBASLER@GANNETT.COM) • JANUARY 8, 2011, 8:40 PM**

OWEGO -- Romance, intrigue, sex and fracking: Robert W. White's new novel has it all.

The scene isn't a mysterious foreign hot spot, but Tranquility, a fictionalized town in upstate New York. And the main characters aren't battling international spies, but an international energy company determined to gain control of natural gas resources, at any cost.

The Owego author, known to his readers as R.W. White, has used the controversy over hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale as the backdrop for a novel, "Hotbed in Tranquility," that, he thinks, makes a good read on a cold winter's night with a glass of wine.

White, who has written three other books, felt the controversy over natural gas drilling would make a good story after attending meetings in New York and Pennsylvania and hearing people voice strong opinions -- pro and con -- on the issue.

"There's the potential for conflict, and conflict leads to good stories," said White, who is an opponent of hydraulic fracturing.

The main characters in "Hotbed in Tranquility" are a State Department diplomat who returns to his hometown, and his old girlfriend, whose son has fallen ill from bad drilling practices. They team up to fight "an international energy cartel" and rekindle their old romance in the process.

Brad Gill, director of the Independent Oil & Gas Association, wasn't thrilled to hear about the novel. He doesn't think the gas industry has gotten a fair shake from the entertainment industry in the past, pointing to an episode of the CBS drama "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," which aired last year, that portrayed a fictional gas company as the villain.

"I have to empathize," White said, adding he saw the CSI episode and didn't think the research was very good.

But his book is well-researched, and not intended as a polemic, White said.

"The characters take sides," he said. "I don't."

Instead, the Owego author wanted to spin a tale that would keep readers turning the pages, even those who are "fed up" with the natural gas issue.

"It's about political ambition, romance and even international intrigue," he said.

The novel is now available at selected book stores in the region, including RiverRead in Binghamton, Riverrow Bookshop in Owego and the Book Nook in Cooperstown.

White hopes it will be online shortly with Barnes & Noble.

**Staff Writer Jon Campbell contributed to this report.**

## **Hanger defied stereotypes**



By Brad Bumsted  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW  
Sunday, January 9, 2011

## HARRISBURG

It's hugely ironic that John Hanger, the state regulator in the infancy of the Marcellus shale industry, came into office in 2008 portrayed as a wild-eyed environmentalist and he leaves office in a little more than a week painted in some quarters as a stooge of industry.

Hanger is neither.

"The problem is I'm a raging centrist," he said in an interview. "I approach issues based on the facts."

Hanger, 53, spent the last two years as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. Gov. Ed Rendell raised eyebrows and some concern in the business community when he appointed Hanger to the post while Hanger was serving as the head of PennFuture, an environmental advocacy group.

But Hanger was portrayed as an anti-drilling villain in the documentary "Gasland," which received national attention. He took a huge hit last week -- by implication -- in an Associated Press story that made Pennsylvania's regulation of natural gas drilling look like that of a Third-World nation.

Pennsylvania was the only state that allowed discharges of partially treated water into rivers, the AP story said. The fact that Pennsylvania put new regulations into place last year that requires water running by water treatment plants to meet tough standards was largely ignored, Hanger believes. It was allowed in the past on the argument that it's diluted in the mass of water flowing through rivers.

It wasn't until the eighth paragraph that you found out, "State officials, energy companies and the operators of treatment plants insist that with the right safeguards in place, the practice poses little or no risk to the environment or to the hundreds of thousands of people who rely on those rivers for drinking water."

Today, about 70 percent of hydraulic wastewater is recycled in part due to the tougher standards, Hanger said.

You can take this to the bank. If past practice posed the slightest risk, Hanger would have been screaming about it.

"As of today," Hanger said last week, "every single drop of tap water from public water supplies is safe." He said he knows this because of rigorous, daily testing done by state regulators.

"I'm not going to say there's no threat ever," said Hanger.

Here's another thing you can bank on. It's a good thing for Republican Gov.-elect Tom Corbett that AP chose to run this investigative story last week and not after his inauguration Jan. 18. Even though Corbett would have had nothing to do with past policies, it would have fit with perceived notions among some that Republicans want nothing better than to let the shale industry run wild.

But what took place -- unfair as the presentation was -- happened under a Democrat governor's environmental stewardship.

Hanger, an attorney and former state Public Utility Commission member appointed by the late Gov. Robert P. Casey, has been an outspoken proponent of taxing the extraction of natural gas to fund environmental protection and to help pay for vital state services. Hanger differs sharply with Corbett's no-tax approach to the industry.

But Hanger was "heartened" by Corbett's recent remarks in the Trib that when it comes to regulation of the shale industry, the career prosecutor views himself as a "cop." Corbett said in effect, let the chips fall where they may. The regulations will be enforced.



"Those are the right words," Hanger said. "The real test is action."

*Brad Bumsted can be reached at [bbumsted@tribweb.com](mailto:bbumsted@tribweb.com) or 717-787-1405.*

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## Does the water meet standards?

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